

Billy Dean

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Billy Dean



Dean performing at the Country For Kids concert in 1998 in Stafford, VA

Background information

Birth name	William Harold Dean, Jr. ^[1]
Born	April 2, 1962 (age 51) <div> Quincy, Florida United States</div>
Genres	Country
Occupations	Musician , songwriter , actor
Instruments	Vocals , guitar , fiddle , banjo ^{[2][3]}
Years active	1989–present

Labels	SBK/Liberty , Capitol Nashville , Dreamcatcher , View 2, Asylum-Curb
Associated acts	Alison Krauss , Lonestar , Kenny Rogers , Tom Shapiro
Website	billydean.com

William Harold "Billy" Dean, Jr. (born April 2, 1962, in [Quincy, Florida](#)) is an American [country music](#) singer and songwriter. Billy Dean first gained national attention after appearing on the television talent competition [Star Search](#). Active as a recording artist since 1990, he has recorded a total of eight studio albums (of which the first three have been certified gold by the [RIAA](#)) and a greatest hits package which is also certified gold. His studio albums have accounted for more than twenty hit singles on the [Billboard](#) country charts, including eleven Top Ten hits. Although he never reached the top of the *Billboard* country charts on his own, he reached Number One in 2000 as one of two guest vocalists on [Kenny Rogers'](#) "[Buy Me a Rose](#)", and had two Number Ones on the [RPM](#) country charts in Canada. He resides in [Liberty, Tennessee](#).

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Biography[\[edit\]](#)

Dean was born in [Quincy, Florida](#), on April 2, 1962.^[1] His father, also known as Billy Dean, maintained a band called The Country Rock in his spare time, and by the time he was eight, Dean began playing in his father's band.^[2] Throughout high school, at Robert F. Munroe Day School, he continued to play music, both in his father's band and with other local musicians. He soon began touring in local clubs, and sang [Frank Sinatra](#)'s "[My Way](#)" at his high school graduation.^[4]

Dean was also a [basketball](#) player in high school, and was offered a scholarship to [East Central Community College](#) in [Decatur, Mississippi](#).^[1] He attended college for one year before dropping out in order to pursue his desired career in music.^[2] By the time he was 20, Dean made the finals on the [Wrangler](#) Country Star Search, followed by a Male Vocalist win on the television competition [Star Search](#) six years later.^[1] He also worked as a demo singer and took acting lessons, appearing in television commercials for [McDonald's](#), [Chevrolet](#) and [Valvoline](#).^[2] By the end of the decade, he had signed to a publishing contract with [EMI Music](#), as well as a recording contract with [SBK Records](#), a subsidiary of [Liberty Records](#).

Musical career^[edit]

1990-1995^[edit]

Dean made his chart debut in late 1990 with the single "[Only Here for a Little While](#)", the first release from his debut album [Young Man](#). This song and its follow-up, "[Somewhere in My Broken Heart](#)" (previously recorded by [Randy Travis](#) on his 1989 album [No Holdin' Back](#)^[4]) were both No. 3 hits on the [Billboard](#) country charts. The latter was also a minor hit on the [Hot Adult Contemporary Tracks](#) charts. Although the album did not produce any other singles, *Young Man* was certified gold by the [RIAA](#).

Dean's self-titled [second album](#) followed in 1991, and soon earned a gold certification as well. Four singles were released from it: "[You Don't Count the Cost](#)", "[Only the Wind](#)" and "[Billy the Kid](#)" each peaked at No. 4 on the country charts, while "[If There Hadn't Been You](#)" was a No. 3 on *Billboard*, and a No. 1 on both the former [Radio & Records](#) (now [Mediabase](#)) country charts in the U.S.^[2] and the [RPM](#) Country Tracks charts in Canada. Dean also toured with [The Judds](#) on their farewell tour in 1991, as well on tours with [Wynonna Judd](#) and [Clint Black](#).^[2] He also wrote and recorded the theme song to the [ABC](#) animated television series [Wild West C.O.W.-Boys of Moo Mesa](#), and hosted a Top 21 countdown on [VH1](#).^[2] By 1992, he had also earned the Top New Male Vocalist award from the [Academy of Country Music](#).^[2]

[Fire in the Dark](#) was the title of Dean's third album. Issued in 1993, it was also his third straight gold-certified album, earning that certification from both the RIAA and [CRIA](#). Lead-off single "[Tryin' to Hide a Fire in the Dark](#)" peaked at No. 6 in the United States and became his second No. 1 in Canada. Following it were "I Wanna Take Care of You", "I'm Not Built That Way", and a cover of [Dave Mason](#)'s 1977 pop hit "[We Just Disagree](#)". Also in 1993, Dean had an opening slot on [Alan Jackson](#)'s tour.^{[2][4]}

Following his first three studio albums was a [greatest hits](#) album in 1994. This album reprised his first nine singles, as well as a new song, "Once in a While", which Dean wrote and recorded for the [soundtrack](#) to the 1994 film [8 Seconds](#).^[2] This song peaked at No. 53 based on unsolicited airplay.

[Men'll Be Boys](#), his final release for SBK/Liberty, came later in 1994. This album was not as successful in sales or chart performance, producing the No. 24 "Cowboy Band" and No. 60 title track. After this album, Dean

placed his career on hiatus to raise his family, which at that point consisted of his wife, Cathy, and their son, William Eli Dean.^[2]

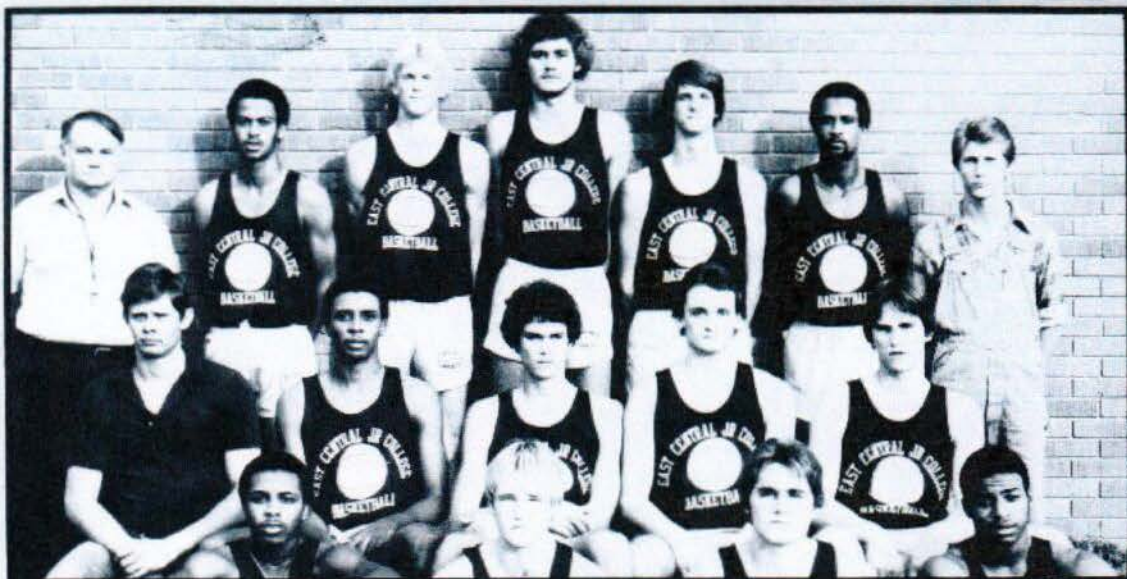
1996-present^[edit]

Dean returned to the recording studio in 1996 for his fifth album, *It's What I Do*, on [Capitol Records](#) Nashville. This album returned him to the Top Ten with its [title track](#) and "[That Girl's Been Spyin' on Me](#)", which reached numbers 5 and 4, respectively.^[4] The final single, a cover of [Don Williams'](#) 1988 single "[I Wouldn't Be a Man](#)", fell short of Top 40. He also worked with actress and singer [Crystal Bernard](#) on her 1996 debut album *Girl Next Door*, in addition to co-writing its debut single "Have We Forgotten What Love Is."^[2] Later that year, Dean released a non-charting single, "In the Name of Love", which never appeared on an album. In 1998, [Victoria Shaw](#) and several other artists, including Dean, collaborated on the charity single "One Heart at a Time".

[Real Man](#), his sixth album, was issued in mid-1998. This album produced only one Top 40 hit in its title track, followed by "Innocent Bystander" which reached number 68. After this album, Dean exited Capitol's roster. He also took up acting once more, appearing in the minor TV specials *A Face to Kill For* and *Blue Valley Songbird*.^[4] In 2000, he and [Alison Krauss](#) made guest appearances on [Kenny Rogers'](#) single "[Buy Me a Rose](#)", which reached the top of the *Billboard* country charts in May of that year. This song was also a Top 40 hit on the [Billboard Hot 100](#), and Rogers' first number 1 single in thirteen years.

A year later, Dean joined [Suzy Bogguss](#) and twelve-year-old singer Jillian Arciero (credited as Jillian) on "Please Keep Mom and Dad in Love," which was issued on Rogers's Dreamcatcher Records, and never included on an album.^[4] Although he continued touring, he did not chart again until 2003 with "I'm in Love With You", released on the independent View 2 label. His next release for View 2 was a cover of [John Denver's](#) "[Thank God I'm a Country Boy](#)". [Asylum-Curb Records](#) took over promotion of this single shortly after its release,^[5] and by mid-2004 it reached number 27 on the country charts. Following it was the single "[Let Them Be Little](#)", co-written by [Richie McDonald](#) of [Lonestar](#) and recorded by the band on its 2004 album *[Let's Be Us Again](#)*. Dean's seventh studio album, also titled *[Let Them Be Little](#)*, was finally issued in late 2004 on Asylum-Curb.^[4] Although "Let Them Be Little" reached a peak of number 8 on the country charts in early 2005, the album's other singles all failed to reach Top 40. A [Christmas music](#) album, *The Christ (A Song for Joseph)*, followed in late 2005. Included on the album was a duet with his daughter Hannah.

In addition to recording and touring, Dean is branching into using music for corporate marketing. One of his ventures, *Song Sessions*, combines songwriting and corporate team building exercises.



ECJC WARRIORS 1981-1982

Front row: Steve Lewis, Buddy Killen, Joe Kennamer, Ken Eiland. Second row: Manager Clay Herring, Palma Jones, Robert Gilliland, Mike Shirley, Harold Dean, Coach Herman Robinson, Eddie Griffin, Derek Schreck, Kenny Gilliland, Jeff Fultz, Leon Jackson, and Manager David Gressett

